

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 SAJ-01 /054 W

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O R 281532Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9265

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 15287

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, SCUL

SUBJECT: SOVIET MFA PROTEST AT WINKS ARTICLE IN JULY AMERIKA

1. SUMMARY. SEPTEMBER 28 SOVIET MFA ORAL PROTEST OVER INCLUSION OF OFFENDING SENTENCE BY WINKS IN JULY ISSUE OF AMERIKA AFFIRMS THAT ISSUE CANNOT BE CIRCULATED AT EXHIBITS OR "IN ANY OTHER WAY" BY EMBASSY/, AND USA DIVISION COUNSELOR EXPRESSED "PERSONAL VIEW" THAT NORMAL CIRCULATION OF ISSUE MAY BE AFFECTED. END SUMMARY.

2. ACTING POL COUNSELOR WAS CALLED IN SEPTEMBER 28 BY MFA USA DIVISION COUNSELOR (FOR BILATERAL AFFAIRS) CHETVERIKOV TO HEAR ORAL PROTEST. NO COPY WAS MADE AVAILABLE, BUT FOLLOWING TRANSLATION IS NEARLY EXACT.

3. BEGIN TEXT: IN A CONVERSATION BETWEEN MR. MATLOCK AND MR. MIKHAILOV OF THE USA DIVISION ON AUGUST 30, THE EMBASSY'S ATTENTION WAS DRAWN TO THE ARTICLE "CRITICAL MOMENTS IN AMERICAN HISTORY" BY MR. WINKS IN THE PAMPHLET "200 YEARS-YSA" TO BE CIRCULATED AT THE U.S. EXHIBIT IN MOSCOW THIS NOVEMBER. ON OUR SIDE IT WAS STATED THAT THE SENTENCE (QUOTED) IS ABSOLUTELY UNACCEPTABLE TO OUR PEOPLE AND COUNTRY, AND IS INADMISSIBLE. LATER THE AMERICAN SIDE AGREED IT IS OUT OF PLACE, AND CONVEYED THAT MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN TO REMEDY THE SITUATION.

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4. NEVERTHELESS, THE LATEST, JULY ISSUE OF AMERICA MAGAZINE CONTAINS THE SAME ARTICLE BY WINKS, AND IT CONTAINS THE SAME STATEMENT UNCHANGED. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS LODGES A PROTEST CONCERNING PUBLICATIONS OF THIS KIND, WHICH ARE INADMISSIBLE, AND EXPECTS THE U.S. SIDE TO TAKE MEASURES TO AVOID SUCH CASES IN THE FUTURE, AND (TO ENSURE) THAT MATERIAL PUBLISHED IN THE MAGAZINE BE CONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSES OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE BASIS OF WHICH THE MAGAZINE IS CIRCULATED IN THE SOVIET UNION, AND THAT SUCH MATERIAL SERVE THE PURPOSES OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE SOVIET AND AMERICAN PEOPLES AND NOT BE DETERIMENTAL TO IT.

5. AS SHOULD BE PERFECTLY CLEAR, THE ABOVE-MENTIONED ISSUE OF THE MAGAZINE CANNOT BE (AVAILABLE) IN EXHIBITS HELD IN THE SOVIET UNION OR CIRCULATED IN SUCH EXHIBITS. WE ALSO PROCEED FROM THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE EMBASSY WILL NOT CIRCULATE THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE OF THE MAGAZINE IN ANY OTHER WAY. END TEXT.

6. ACTING POL COUNSELOR SAID HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH ALL DETAILS OF THIS ISSUE, BUT HAD IMPRESSION THAT PROBLEM INVOLVED A MISTRANSLATION INTO RUSSIAN. HE ASKED WHETHER CHETVERIKOV HAD ANY INFORMATION TO GIVE ON WAY SOJUZPECHAT' WOULD HANDLE THE JULY ISSUE OF AMERIKA. CHETVERIKOV SAID HE KNEW ONLY THAT SUBSCRIBERS AND READERS HAVE BEEN PROTESTING THIS SENTENCE, AND EXPRESSED HIS "PERSONAL VIEW" THAT IT MAY AFFECT THE ROUTINE CIRCULATION OF THE ISSUE; IN CONCLUSION, HE STRESSED THAT ONLY THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE IS INVOLVED, AND THAT VIEW EXPRESSED WAS PERSONAL ONLY.
MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 28 SEP 1976
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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